SUBJECTS.

Government, had begun to see that it was necessary to get the subjects of this State trained in several branches of learning, so that they might become experts and their services might be utilised by the Government with advantage. The Member proposed that, in proportion to the growth of this spirit, there must necessarily be a reduction in the number of officers imported from outside, and that Government might, for the time being, fix a term of years in the case of foreign officers in the higher grades requiring expert knowledge. The Member suggested that Government might be pleased to order all Heads of Departments to give appointments in their gift only to the subjects of this State.

Dewan's reply.—Government concur generally in the views expressed by the Member. For appointments in all the grades of the Travancore Public Service, the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja should certainly have the preference consistently of course with the interests of efficiency. The allegation that, in the lower grades of the service, foreigners are being imported, even when qualified local men are available, will be enquired into. And if there is any such tendency, stringent action will be taken to stop it.

68. *Recreation grounds.*

Mr. P. M. Chacko (Member, T. I. C., Kottayam) stated that there had been a reduction in the number of public places available for recreation and physical exercise. People everywhere were asking for lands and Government were ready to comply with the applications to register lands in the names of private individuals, with the result that the lands that were being used for recreation became the private properties of individuals who enclosed and cultivated them. There was considerable decrease in open spaces throughout the State. The supply of pure air became limited and affected the health of the people. The Member referred particularly to the want of anything like a recreation ground in the town of Kottayam.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

69. *Exemption of Mahomedans from attendance at Courts & Cutcherries on Mahomedan holidays.*

Mr. Kunju Khadir Pillai (Member, Nominated) said that all Mahomedans, whether in the public service or not, should have the privilege of the Mahomedan holidays recently notified in the Gazette, and that they should be exempted from attending the Courts and Cutcherries on those days.

Dewan's reply.—The special holidays for Mahomedans are now being notified in the Gazette. The proposal of the Member to exempt *all* Mahomedans from attending the Courts and Cutcherries on those days will be enquired into.

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